

touch with associates, including fellow Illinois Institute of Technology alumni Michael Hill (CS '82) and Perri Irmer (ARCH '81), colleagues, and friends, who help him stay connected to his passions on a global scale.

What's his secret? Caldwell chuckles at the thought of trying to distill a century of living into a few pithy words of advice. "Are you sure you want the whole story?" he asks.

The story begins when Caldwell was born on September 12, 1921 in Raymond, Mississippi, the seventh of eight children. As with all parents, Caldwell's wanted to give their children the best possible start in life. His mother, Chaney Durham, was determined to ensure her children had the opportunity to obtain an education.

So, Curtis and Chaney Durham bought a house 750 miles away and in 1923, they moved their family to Chicago's Bronzeville neighborhood, about two miles away from Armour Institute, the institute that would be reborn as Illinois Institute of Technology in 1940.

There, the Durham children did exactly what their mother hoped they would. They went to school. Caldwell graduated from DuSable High School in 1939 and from Woodrow Wilson Junior College in the spring of 1941. That December, the United States entered World War II.

Caldwell knew that if he was drafted, he'd have little control over where or how he was deployed. He heard about a U.S. Army Air Force airborne training program which would train volunteers to work on aviation electronics. Durham volunteered and was accepted to the training program, assigned to a segregated unit of Black soldiers. Caldwell excelled and his training laid the foundation for the rest of his career.

After the war, Caldwell used his engineering training to get a job working for Western Electric, as a "wireman," building and installing hardware for telephone stations. He was the only Black wireman working for Western Electric, establishing a pattern that he would repeat throughout his career.

In the late 1940s, one of Caldwell's colleagues mentioned that he was thinking about quitting his job at Western Electric to go back to school. Caldwell thought that with his academic and professional background and the financial support of the GI Bill, he might be able to do the same. In 1949, he took a class at the university only a couple of miles from his family's home—Illinois Institute of Technology.

There, Caldwell engaged his remarkable capacity as an engineer and excelled. An IIT professor encouraged Caldwell to apply to attend IIT as a full-time student, so he did. A few months later, he was admitted to Illinois Tech, where he earned a bachelor of science in electrical engineering and again, he excelled.

As graduation approached in 1951, Caldwell found little success finding a job in the Midwest, as few firms at the time had an interest in hiring a Black engineer. One of his professors at IIT suggested he look for a job on the west coast, so Caldwell applied for a job at Lockheed in California.

In June 1951, Caldwell Durham moved across the country in pursuit of greater opportunity, this time with his own family.

The Durhams settled in L.A. and Caldwell quickly earned the respect of his colleagues. Caldwell spent the next ten years working for Lockheed, beginning his aerospace career in

earnest, designing and testing airplane instrumentation for the U-2 Spy Plane, first-generation jet aircrafts like the F-94C Starfire Interceptor, and the iconic L-1049 Super Constellation.

In 1961, Caldwell attended a conference where he ran into Okamoto, one of his former Lockheed colleagues, who had since gone to work for Space Technology Laboratories (STL). Okamoto persuaded his manager to interview Caldwell for a job in his office.

Caldwell spent the rest of his career at STL, which later came to be known as TRW. There, he worked in the Ballistic Missile Flight test Instrumentation section, participating in the specification and development of instrumentation systems for several ballistic missiles. Over a period of 28 years he truly became a rocket scientist. In 1978, he became head of the Instrumentation Section. He was the only black section manager in TRW's Missile Program Office. In 1989, he retired with honors and commendations.

Success like Caldwell's isn't a foregone conclusion for anyone. But his parents likely wouldn't be surprised. Chaney Durham knew that all of her children had potential and she did everything she could to give them the chance to express it. She knew that the best way to give her children this gift was through access to education.

Because of his education, Caldwell was able to compete for opportunities that others like him had rarely been allowed to pursue before. And because of his talent and determination, he enjoyed a successful career. He and Burnette also committed themselves to passing on the lesson of the power of an education to their own children. Today, all three of Caldwell's children achieved post-graduate degrees, and he counts lawyers, doctors and a news anchor among his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

This legacy of excellence began almost one hundred years ago, all because one family made the decision to prioritize access to education over their own comfort. Because of that, the descendants of Chaney and Curtis Durham, now five generations strong, have what Chaney always dreamed of: a chance at a better life through the power of education.

Caldwell's 100th birthday was September 12, 2021. He likes to say he's lived a charmed life. So, what is his secret? "You know, I don't know," he says with a laugh, "I think exercise is part of the equation."

#### COMMEMORATING SANTA CLARA CITY LIBRARIAN PATTY WONG

#### HON. RO KHANNA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 21, 2021

Mr. KHANNA. Madam Speaker, today I rise to congratulate my constituent, Patty Wong, on becoming the first Asian American librarian to serve as the President of the American Library Association—an organization dedicated to improving learning opportunities and information across the country.

I am grateful for Ms. Wong's service in my district as the City Librarian for the Santa Clara Public Library. She has dedicated her 37-year career to improving our communities by serving as an award-winning librarian in in-

stitutions throughout California, and also as a part-time faculty member educating hundreds of undergraduates at San Jose State University.

From serving as a school librarian, children's librarian, and a special librarian in places including Stockton-San Joaquin County Public Library, Oakland Public Library and Berkeley Public Library, she has used every opportunity she could find to pour her heart and soul into community service. Her work on equity and diversity, youth development, fundraising, and creating collaborations between libraries and community agencies are inspiring to us all.

In each of her roles, Ms. Wong has stood out as a leader who is dedicated to making the world a better place. When the pandemic struck, Ms. Wong spearheaded efforts to support weekly food distribution programs, hosted COVID-19 testing at libraries, and partnered with Stanford Blood Mobile to collect blood donations. Our community owes her a debt of gratitude for this selfless work.

Ms. Wong is exceptional in her history of working in libraries and her passion for community service. I am delighted to see her extraordinary talents in this new role recognized as the new President of the American Library Association. I wish her the best of luck on this exciting new endeavor.

#### HONORING BARB FULLER AS IOWAN OF THE WEEK

#### HON. CYNTHIA AXNE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 21, 2021

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring Barb Fuller of Corning, Iowa, as Iowan of the Week.

This week we recognize National 4-H Week. As a former 4-H'er myself, I have the utmost respect and gratitude for the individuals who devote their time and expertise to helping kids around our country grow and realize their own potential. In Iowa, 4-H has a deeply rooted commitment to the growth and development of kids across our great State. For decades, Barb Fuller has dedicated her time and passions to the Adams County 4-H.

Barb has been involved with 4-H for practically her entire life. She participated in the organization when she was a kid with the Colfax Cloverettes of Boone County, and the organization's impact on her inspired her to take on more expansive roles within 4-H, especially after her daughter started participating in the organization. Barb became a leader in the Adams County 4-H for roughly 15 years after her daughter joined, leading her daughter's 4-H group, the Jasper Specialists.

Barb has impacted many of the 4-H'ers during her time with the organization, always making sure anyone who wanted to participate was able to have the opportunity to do so. Barb has been dedicated to helping kids in her community grow, and she thoroughly enjoys having the opportunity to guide kids through different projects and tasks. What has impacted Barb the most throughout her time with 4-H has always been the ability to watch kids learn, grow, and gain more self-confidence through the projects and activities they're able